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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-30, 34 and 36 (Previously Canceled).

Claims 31-33, 35 and 37 (Canceled without prejudice).

Claim 38 (New): A digital information coding apparatus, comprising:

a) an input unit, arranged to selectively input first digital information data that one sample is expressed with N bits and second digital information data that one sample is expressed with N bits;

b) an encoder, arranged to encode the first digital information data to generate third digital information data that one sample is expressed with M bits (M<N);

c) a converter arranged to convert the third digital information data generated by said encoder into fourth digital information data that plural samples are expressed with N bits, wherein said converter converts the third digital information data into the fourth digital information data by combining plural samples of the third digital information data; and

d) an error correction unit arranged to selectively add an error correction check code to the second digital information data and the fourth digital information data,

said error correction unit performing a common addition processing irrespectively of the second digital information data and the fourth digital information data.

Claim 39 (New): An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said encoder encodes the first digital information data to be encoded by differential pulse code modulation.

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Claim 40 (New): An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the second digital information data is a television signal in which a video signal and an audio signal are time-division multiplexed.

Claim 41 (New): An apparatus according to claim 38, further comprising a recording unit, arranged to record the data processed by said error correction unit on a recording medium.

Claim 42 (New): An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the fourth digital information data being inputted in an amount less than the first digital information data during a predetermined period of time.

Claim 43 (New): A digital information coding method comprising the steps of:

selectively inputting first digital information data that one sample is expressed with N bits and second digital information data that one sample is expressed with N bits;

encoding the first digital information data to generate third digital information data that one sample is expressed with M bits (M < N);

converting the third digital information data generated in said encoding step into fourth digital information data that plural samples are expressed with N bits, wherein said converting step converts the third digital information data into the fourth digital information data by combining plural samples of the third digital information data; and

selectively adding an error correction check code to the second digital information data and the fourth digital information data, said error correction check code adding step performing a common addition processing irrespectively of the second digital information data and the fourth digital information data.

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